

News Release

Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street Frederick, Maryland 21701 CONTACT: Robin K. Santangelo Public Information Officer 301-600-2590

TTY: Use Maryland Relay

rsantangelo@FrederickCountyMD.gov

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## COUNTY ASKS NORTHEAST MARYLAND WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY TO ISSUE RFP FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners asked the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority ("Authority") to issue a <u>Request for Proposals</u> (RFP) to obtain pricing for both short-term and long-term waste transportation and disposal services. The RFP will ensure that Frederick County and all of its municipalities continue to have adequate solid waste disposal resources available and under contract.

The RFP will also determine interest and obtain firm pricing from waste management companies that may wish to use excess capacity in the recently permitted renewable waste-to-energy (WTE) facility that will be located in the McKinney Industrial Center.

Maryland law requires the county to have adequate waste disposal capacity for its residents. However, since the county's Reich's Ford Road landfill has limited remaining capacity, the county has been transferring waste generated in the county to landfills in other states. The county's only remaining transportation and disposal contract will expire in approximately one year.

Although permits for the WTE facility were recently issued following a thorough review process by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the county's approval and subsequent construction of the facility will not proceed until a new partner has been secured and updated financial projections have been reviewed and approved by the county commissioners.

Furthermore, a request for judicial review of MDE's decision to issue one of the five permits needed for the WTE facility may also delay decisions on the project.

The RFP seeks to obtain firm pricing for out-of-county waste transfer and disposal services for either a short-term or long-term period. The short-term contract would provide waste disposal services until the WTE facility could be constructed and placed in operation, while a long-term contract could be used if a replacement partner is not secured for the project and the WTE facility is not constructed.

Board President Blaine Young said, "We have supported the concept of building a regional waste-to-energy facility so our residents have reliable and cost effective waste disposal services right here in Frederick County, eliminating our need to rely on other jurisdictions to accept our waste. Frederick County transfers more than 90 percent of its trash to out-of-state landfills due to the county's limited landfill capacity. This method is unpredictable and has cost the county more than \$83 million since the transfer was first initiated. With a regional waste-to-energy facility, Frederick County could save millions of taxpayer dollars as compared to other waste disposal methods. However, until the Authority finds a new partner that is acceptable to Frederick County, the WTE project is not an immediate solution."

According to Special Projects Manager Michael Marschner, without a replacement partner for Carroll County, and the Frederick County Commissioners' approval, the Authority will not be able to proceed with the WTE project. With Carroll County's withdrawal from the project, the search for a new partner will accelerate. "Since the project's initial approval, it was a regional concept that relied on certain economies of scale provided by the two counties," he commented.

The results of this RFP will also provide the county with up-to-date long-term waste transfer and disposal cost information, which can be used for comparison in any additional evaluation of the WTE project. "As the incoming Charter Government administration may make the final determination regarding the WTE project, we want to make sure that up-to-date information on waste disposal costs are available and maximum flexibility exists regarding the county's waste disposal options," added President Young.

Securing new contract services for the county's waste disposal, which could include securing commitments to use excess waste processing capacity in the recently permitted WTE facility, will allow the county to continue to preserve remaining capacity in the Reich's Ford Road landfill, while decisions regarding the county's long-term waste management receive further evaluation.

Responses to the RFP are due on June 9, 2014. For more information about the RFP or WTE project, visit <a href="www.nmwda.org/frederick">www.nmwda.org/frederick</a>. For additional information, contact Authority Executive Director Chris Skaggs at 410-333-2730 or via e-mail at <a href="mailto:authority@nmwda.org">authority@nmwda.org</a>.